

Message Text

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SUBJ: PAG'S: GOSKONTSERT REQUESTS NOMINATIONS FOR 1977

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1. GOSKONTSERT DIRECTOR SUPAGIN IN FEBRUARY TEN MEETING
URGENTLY REQUESTED DEPT. PROPOSALS FOR PAG'S IN 1977.
HE EXPLAINED THAT GOSKONTSERT BUDGET FOR 77 NOW BEING
DRAWN UP AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALL INDICATED THE
PAGS THEY WILL SEND. EMBASSY EARLIER HAS MADE SUGGESTIONS
FOR UPCOMING PAG'S (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS), AND BELOW
AMPLIFIES PROPOSALS FOR 1977 AND 1978 WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED
HERE.

2. IN CONSIDERING FUTURE PAG'S, WE HAVE REVIEWED
RECENT EXPERIENCE WHICH INDICATES THAT SHORT TOURS (SUCH
AS ROY CLARK AND NYPO) OR VERY COMPLICATED TOURS (SUCH
AS ACT AND JOFFREY) RESULT IN THE PAG APPEARING IN A
SMALL NUMBER OF CITIES FOR RELATIVELY SMALL TOTAL
AUDIENCES. SINCE WE BELIEVE WE MUST INCLUDE MOSCOW
AND LENINGRAD IN ALL MAJOR TOURS, OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT
OTHER CITIES IS THUS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. MORE
PORTABLE GROUPS STAYING FOR LONGER PERIODS COULD REACH
A GREATER NUMBER OF CITIES. THIS CONSIDERATION IS
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REFLECTED IN ALL BUT TWO OF EMB SUGGESTIONS BELOW.

3. SOVIET PRESS AND RADIO, TV COVERAGE OF US PAG'S HAS EXPANDED TO POINT WHERE THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED AS ONE OF MAJOR POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PAG PROGRAM. PAG'S WHICH WILL MAKE THEIR CONCERTS AVAILABLE FOR VIDEO-TAPING AND BROADCAST ARE THUS HIGHLY DESIREABLE, WHILE THOSE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE DUE UNION RESTRICTUIONS ARE LESS SO.

4. EMB SUGGESTS FOLLOWING GROUPS OR TYPES OF GROUPS:

A. SIMON AND GARFUNKEL: RECENTLY REPORTED APPEAR-ING TOGETHER AGAIN IN PERFORMANCE, THIS DUO WITH BACK-UP MUSICIANS WOULD PRESENT EXCITING VIEW OF CREATIVITY IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC. AS NON-ROCK GROUP, ACCEPTANCE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED WITH AMERICA AND DOOBI BROS. LESS LIKELY. AMERICAN SPECIALIST ABLE TO LECTURE ABOUT MODERN POP MIGHT ACCOMPANY TO SATISFY GREAT SOVIET THIRST FOR ACADEMIC INFORMATION THIS GENRE.

B. NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY RAGTIME ENSEMBLE, CONDUCTED BY GUNTHER SCHULLER: MINCULT'S KOVALEV RETURNED FROM HIS BOSTON VISIT WITH EXCELLENT IMPRESSION AND HOPES OF FURTHER CONTACTS WITH SCHULLER. WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF FORMAT OF THIS ENSEMBLE, BUT A PROGRAM WHICH COMBINED SCHULLER'S SUCCESSFUL RAGTIME INTERPRETATION WITH MIXTURE OF TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN COMPOSITONS WOULD BE MOST POPULAR IN USSR. RAGTIME ENCORE PERFORMED BY ST. PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED HERE.

C. BLUES REVIEW: ARTISTS SUCH AS RAY CHARLES, DAVE VAN RONK, JOHN HAMMOND, SONNY MCGEE AND BROWNIE TERRY MIGHT BE COLLECTED TO PRESENT PROGRAM OF BLUES OLD AND NEW. SOVIET MUSICOLOGISTS AND GOSKONTSERT HAVE INDICATED INTEREST IN BLUES, AND AS AMERICAN MUSIC WITH DYNAMIC RANGE OF STYLES AND TOPICS, ITS PRESENTATION WOULD DEMONSTRATE CREATIVITY OF FREE SOCIETY. JULIUS LOKIN, ROAD MANAGER OF NYJRC, INDICATED WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO ASSIST IN SUCH A TOUR.

D. BROADWAY MUSICAL: AS DEPT. HAS INFORMED US BY TELCON, "RAISIN" UNCLASSIFIED

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IS PROBABLY NOT AVAILABLE. "THE WIZ" AND "CHORUS LINE" ON LONG RUNS, LIKELY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE, BUT PERHAPS DEPT. CAN IDENTIFY SUITABLE, AVAILABLE PRODUCTION. GOSKONTSERT DIRECTOR SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED A MUSICAL FOR '77.

E. AMERICAN BRASS QUINTET: SOVIET BRASS AND WOODWINDS ARE AS WEAK AS THEIR STRING AND KEYBOARD MUSIC IS STRONG. ABQ'S COMPETENCE WOULD ASTOUND LOCAL

MUSICAL PUBLIC AS WELL AS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN BRASS MUSIC. SMALL SIZE MIGHT FACILITATE TWO-MONTH TOUR ENABLING EXPOSURE IN LARGE NUMBER OF CITIES.

F. CONTEMPORARY DANCE: A SMALL, INNOVATIVE GROUP WHICH TRAVELS EASILY WOULD BE ENORMOUSLY POPULAR. MURRAY LOUIS IS EMBASS'S FIRST SUGGESTION, BUT ELIOT FELD, BELLA LEWITZKY OF SAN FRANCISCO, AND LAR LUBOVITCH OF NEW YORK ALSO ARE POSSIBILITIES. FOR LARGE, PRESTIGIOUS GROUP IN 1978 OR BEYOND, DEPT. MIGHT CONSIDER AMERICAN BALLET THEATER.

G. UNIVERSITY GROUP: A TOP-QUALITY SINGING OR INSTRUMENTAL GROUP WHICH COULD TOUR DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR COULD HELP EXPAND US CULTURAL CONTACTS IN LITTLE-VISITED CITIES OF USSR.

5. AS DEPT AWARE, LONG-RANGE PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF PAG PROGRAMS. WE HOPE 1977 SCHEDULE CAN BE DEVELOPED IN NEAR FUTURE AND IT WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL IF EARLY 1978 PREPARATIONS COULD BEGIN NOW. STOESSEL

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